

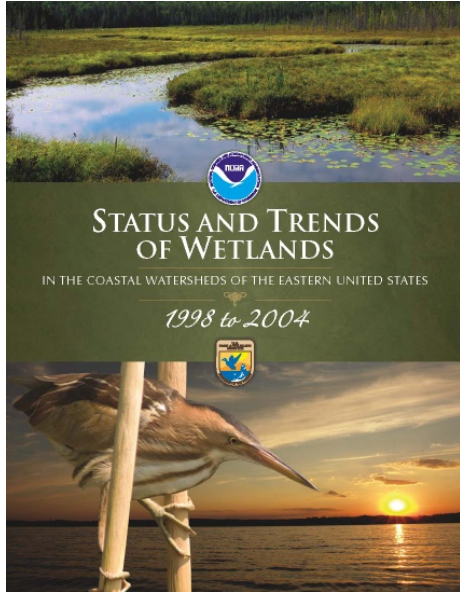
Living Shorelines: One Federal Perspective

Mid-Atlantic Living Shorelines Summit
December 11, 2013

Dave Evans
EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
& Interagency Coastal Wetlands Workgroup



Coastal Wetlands Initiative



- ▶ Why?
 - 59,000 acres average annual loss in Eastern U.S. from 1998–2004

- ▶ Who?
 - Interagency Coastal Wetlands Workgroup (EPA, NOAA, FWS, USGS, USACE, USDA, FHWA)

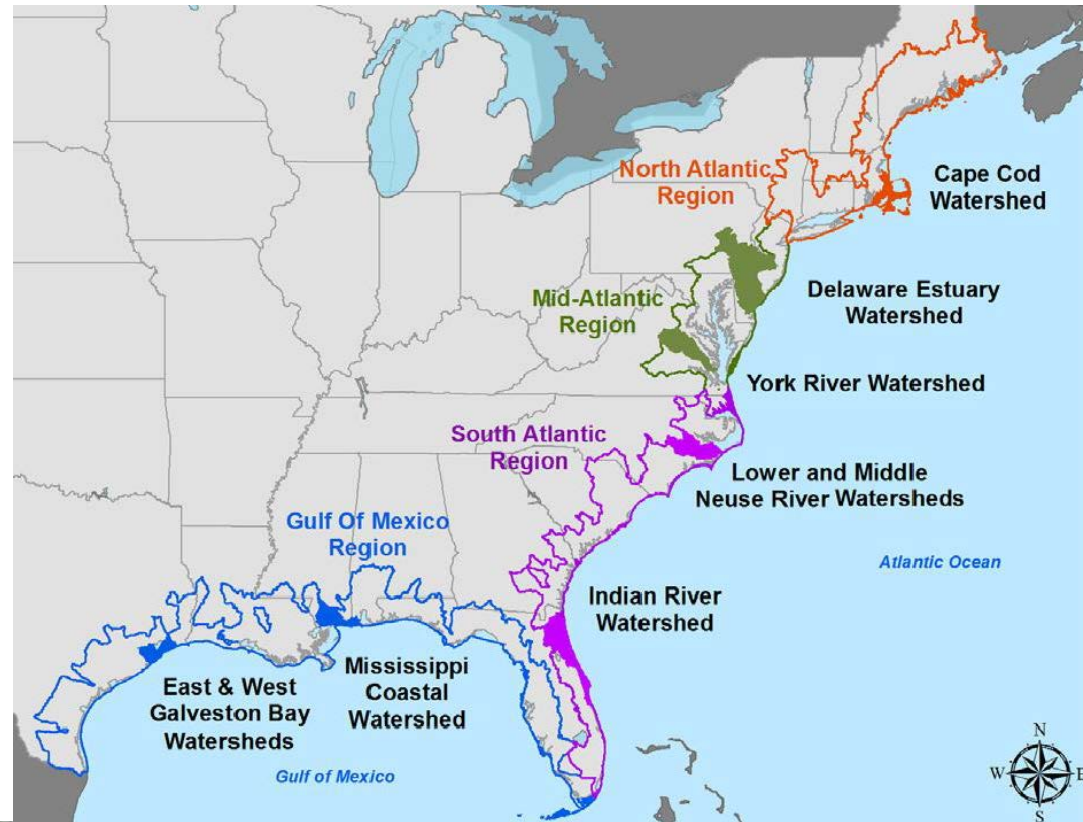
- ▶ Goal
 - Reduce loss of wetlands in coastal watersheds



Coastal Wetland Reviews

Examine the causes of coastal wetland loss, successful tools/strategies to address the loss, and gaps that need to be filled to reverse the loss:

1. Literature review
2. Stakeholder engagement
3. Report summarizing results



<http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/cwt.cfm>

Coastal Wetlands Initiative: Next Steps

- ▶ Share tools/strategies gleaned from Reviews
- ▶ Coastal Wetland Review Follow-up Actions
 - Currently scoping potential actions to address gaps/needs including living shorelines
- ▶ National Ocean Policy
 - Update coastal wetland Status & Trends (2004–9)
 - Complete GIS-based analysis of wetland loss in 4 pilot watersheds & develop recommendations



CWR Findings: Living Shorelines

▶ Tools

- Army Corps Regional General Permit
- Model to determine best shoreline stabilization approach
- Shoreline mapping
- State cost-share program

▶ Gaps

- Permitting
- Education & outreach
- Incentives
- Institutionalizing models and guidance
- Economic studies
- Incorporating climate change



Newly planted marsh with fiber logs allowing plants to establish root system and stabilize shoreline.
Source: VIMS, 2006.



Living Shorelines Next Steps

- ▶ Convening stakeholders
 - Meeting at Smithsonian Ecological Research Center with federal and state government, academic, and nonprofit participants
- ▶ Coordinating with other federal efforts
 - Connect with SERPPAS, SAGE, EWN, Sandy recovery
- ▶ Permitting
 - Compile how LS are currently permitted – promote information sharing between Corps Districts
- ▶ Making data readily accessible
 - Support efforts to develop data portal

